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SOURCE Taiyang Simmun.

PREDICTS CHANGE IN NORTH KOREA TO  
STRATEGY OF GUERRILLA WARFARE

According to information obtained from North Korean refugees, recently there has been a change in North Korean military strategy, i.e., a shift in emphasis from border offensive to guerrilla campaigns. A change of Communist troop distribution with a resultant increase of guerrilla disturbances south of the 38th Parallel is foreseen. The possible reasons for the strategic change are as follow:

1. Past border campaigns by the Reds proved to be unsuccessful.
2. Winter restricts military movements along the 38th Parallel.
3. The Reds believe that a period of quiet along the border may give the UN a favorable impression towards North Korea. At the same time, continuous disturbances south of the Parallel will give the Reds good propaganda against the South Korean government. They could point out to the UN the inability of the South Korean government to control trouble in its own domain.
4. Since the inferiority of the People's Army in comparison with the National Army has been tested and proven, it is necessary for the Reds to withhold offensive action while they reorganize and retrain their troops.

On the other hand, it appears that the Reds are preparing for a full retreat which they feel may be necessary should the National Army launch a general offense. In the event of a northward retreat from the 38th Parallel, the Reds may establish strongholds in the mountain regions of Pyongan Pukto and Hamkyong Namdo. With the support of the CCP and USSR armies, the North Korean Reds could resort to a protracted guerrilla war like that of the Greeks.

This assumption is supported by the following facts:

1. In the early part of 1949, the North Korean Reds established a new administrative district called Chagang Do in the northwestern corner of Pyongan Pukto. This new province incorporates six counties centered around Chasong and

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Kangge counties, from where the Manp'o Railroad runs to connect with Harbin in Manchuria. The establishment of this new province within Pyongan Pukto was to convert this mountainous sector into a guerrilla stronghold having its own administration, in the event that the South Korean Army invaded the rest of Pyongan Pukto which is largely flat land and is easily accessible.

2. The Reds have converted a part of the Pyongyang-Wonsan Railroad into an electric railroad, reduced the Seoul-Sinuiju line from double to single tracks, while rebuilding the Hamkyong Railroad into a double-track line.

3. They have also constructed many military highways in strategic areas and established war industries in the Ch'ongjin and Nanam areas. Many army supply warehouses are located here.

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